



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Mesnard Slams Clean Elections Commission for Lax Rule Allowing Public Money to Subsidize Political Parties

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17) today criticized the Clean Elections Commission for enacting [a rule that permits public money to be transferred to political parties](#).

The rule allows Clean Elections candidates, who receive and spend public money, to make payments to political parties for vague items, such as “consulting” and undefined “services rendered.”

“You’d be hard-pressed to find many voters who believe that political parties are entitled to public money, yet that’s essentially what the Clean Elections Commission just allowed. This validates one of the many concerns those of us had who believed creation of the Commission would likely lead to abuse of taxpayer money,” said Speaker Mesnard. **“Public money will likely become a conduit for funding the political parties. It’s a baffling decision for a commission struggling to maintain relevance. Perhaps the voters should have another look.”**

[House Republicans attempted to close this loophole in February](#), but legislation amending Clean Elections laws requires a three-fourths vote. [Democrats defeated the measure](#), arguing that the Clean Elections Commission would close the loophole on its own.

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